



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,737	03/22/2004	Yoshikazu SHIMOSATO	040118	2736
23850	7590	09/09/2005	EXAMINER	
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP 1725 K STREET, NW SUITE 1000 WASHINGTON, DC 20006				KASTLER, SCOTT R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1742		

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

T.D

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/708,737	SHIMOSATO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Scott Kastler	1742

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Scott Kastler. (3) _____.

(2) Mr. Crew. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 01 September 2005.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.

If Yes, brief description: a copy of a proposed amendment including proposed changes to claims 2-4 to overcome the objections of these claims as not further limiting.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-4.

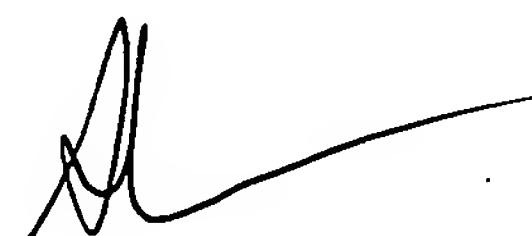
Identification of prior art discussed: the admitted prior art of the instant disclosure.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.



SCOTT KASTLER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: It was explained by the applicant's representative that the furnace of the admitted prior art (figure 1 for example) does not seem to possess a conditioning chamber which receives a workpiece from a heating chamber and that chamber (2) seems to perform both of these functions in the admitted prior art. The examiner explained that chamber (4) could meet the requirements of a conditioning chamber as long as chamber (4) includes means for altering the pressure within the chamber.

Law Offices
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street
Washington, D.C. 20006

Facsimile (202) 887-0357

(202) 659-2930

Facsimile (202) 331-7519

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: August 29, 2005

TO: Examiner Scott R. Kastler
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

RE: Proposed Amendments
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/708,737
First Named Inventor: SHIMOSATO, Yoshikazu
Attorney Docket No.: 040118
Confirmation No.: 2736
Examiner: Scott R. Kastler
Group Art Unit: 1742

FROM: Darren R. Crew

FAC. TEL. NO.: 1-571-273-1243

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 3

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE SAFE AND CLEAR RECEIPT OF ALL PAGES BEING SENT

Dear Examiner Kastler:

Thank you very much for granting the request for an in-person interview, which is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at your office. Please find attached hereto a listing of proposed claim amendments for discussion during the interview.

Respectfully submitted,
Darren R. Crew
Darren R. Crew
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,806

DRC/lif

Enclosure: proposed claim amendments for discussion purposes

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED. This message may also be an attorney/client communication which is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by calling us collect and return the original message to us at the above address by mail. Thank you.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/708,737

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1 (original): A continuous vacuum carburizing furnace comprising: a heating
2 chamber for heating a workpiece under a atmospheric pressure; a first conditioning chamber in
3 which the pressure is reduced from the atmospheric pressure after the receipt of the workpiece
4 from the heating chamber; a carburizing/diffusing chamber receiving plural workpieces from the
5 first conditioning chamber and conducting plural cycles of carburizing and diffusing processes
6 under the reduced pressure; a second conditioning chamber in which the reduced pressure is
7 returned to the atmospheric pressure after the receipt of the workpiece treated in the
8 carburizing/diffusing chamber; and a cooling chamber for cooling the workpiece introduced from
9 the second conditioning chamber under the atmospheric pressure, the furnace further comprising
10 a door member disposed between a respective adjoining pair of the above chambers, the door
11 member opened/closed only when the workpiece is transported from one chamber to another.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The continuous vacuum carburizing furnace as claimed in
2 Claim 1, wherein said door member is disposed between said heating chamber and said first
3 conditioning chamber, wherein said workpiece is subjected to carburization and diffusion in said
4 first conditioning chamber under the reduced pressure.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/708,737

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The continuous vacuum carburizing furnace as claimed in
2 Claim 1, wherein said door member is disposed between said heating chamber and said first
3 conditioning chamber, wherein said workpiece is subjected to carburization and diffusion in said
4 second conditioning chamber under the reduced pressure.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The continuous vacuum carburizing furnace as claimed in
2 Claim 1, wherein said door member is disposed between said heating chamber and said first
3 conditioning chamber, wherein said workpiece is of a steel material.

* * * *